



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit -- 2825  
Examiner – Yelena Rossoshek

April 9, 2004

In re Application of Joseph P. Kerzman et al.  
Title: Method and Apparatus for  
Selecting & Aligning Cells Using  
a Placement Tool  
Serial No.: 09/597,529

Filed: June 20, 2000  
Allowed: March 4, 2004  
File No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)  
Customer # 27516

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBJECT: ISSUE FEE FOR RA 5273 (CST 1028.1128101)

Dear Sir:

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-3790 in the sum of \$1,330.00 to cover payment of the Issue Fee and also the sum of \$3.00 to cover the cost of the 1 extra copy of the patent, which was allowed on March 4, 2004.

Also enclosed are the "Fee Address" Indication Form and Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CAJ/rjn

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 9, 2004.

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Charles A. Johnson  
Attorney for Applicants  
  
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Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
April 9, 2004  
Date of Signature



PATENT

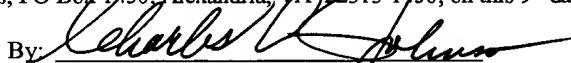
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph Peter Kerzman et al. Confirmation No.: 5974  
Serial No.: 09/597,529 Examiner: Rossoshek, Yelena  
Filed: June 20, 2000 Group Art Unit: 2825  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING AND ALIGNING CELLS  
USING A PLACEMENT TOOL  
Docket No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2004.

By:   
Charles A. Johnson

Dear Sir:

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowance mailed on March 4, 2004 appears to be incomplete. The Examiner appears to merely recite the language of claim 1 in the reasons for allowance. However, Applicants would like to point out that many of the allowed independent (and dependent) claims recite different elements and/or different combination of elements.

For example, independent claim 7 recites the steps of: selecting one of the nets via a user input device; identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net; selecting the identified leaf cells; and setting a current context.

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Independent claim 21 recites the steps of: selecting two or more of the nets via a user input device, wherein the two or more nets are part of a vectored net; identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to any of the selected nets; and selecting the identified leaf cells.

Independent claim 23 recites the steps of: selecting one or more of the nets via a user input device; identifying and selecting selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected one or more nets, wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step include only the source leaf cell(s) that are connected to the one or more selected nets; identifying an alignment axis; and aligning selected ones of the identified leaf cells in the direction of the alignment axis.

Independent claim 29 recites the steps of: selecting one or more of the nets via a user input device, wherein the one or more nets are part of a vectored net having ordered bits; identifying and selecting selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected one or more nets; identifying an alignment axis; and aligning selected ones of the identified leaf cells in the direction of the alignment axis, wherein the aligning step puts the selected identified leaf cells into a predetermined order along the alignment axis.

Independent claim 33 recites a data processing system for selecting cells in a circuit design database that includes: net selection means for selecting one or more of the nets of the circuit design database; leaf cell identifying means for identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net(s), wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying means include only the source leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the selected net(s); and leaf cell selecting means for selecting the identified leaf cells.

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Independent claim 35 recites a computerized method that includes the steps of: selecting one of the nets via a user input device; identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net, wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step only include one or more of the destination leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the selected net; and selecting the identified leaf cells

Independent claim 36 recites the steps of: selecting one or more of the nets via a user input device; identifying and selecting selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected one or more nets, wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step only include one or more of the destination leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the one or more selected net; identifying an alignment axis; and aligning selected ones of the identified leaf cells in the direction of the alignment axis.

Independent claim 37 recites a data processing system for selecting cells in a circuit design database that includes: net selection means for selecting one or more of the nets of the circuit design database; leaf cell identifying means for identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net(s), wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying means only include one or more of the destination leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the one or more selected net(s); and leaf cell selecting means for selecting the identified leaf cells.

The Examiner did state in the Notice of Allowance that claims 1, 2 and 5-37 are allowed over the prior art of record. Thus, the Examiner must have concluded that the claims as allowed, and not necessary as summarized in, or implied by, the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for

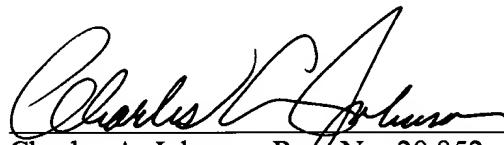
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Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Allowance, are patentable over the art of record. Applicant respectfully request clarification if the Examiner does not agree with this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Peter Kerzman et al.

By his attorney,



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Date April 9, 2004